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SUBJECT: SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION KUWAIT: YOUSEF QARADAWI'S  
REMARKS ADVOCATING KILLING AMERICANS, AND THE KUWAITI  
REACTION

1. SUMMARY: Friday's (9/3) edition of leading Arabic daily al-Rai al-A'am contained a transcription of an interview given in Cairo by Islamist Dr. Yousef Qaradawi. In answer to a question about the religious propriety of kidnapping Americans in Iraq and mutilating their corpses, Qaradawi reportedly replied that it is a religious "duty" to kill any Americans in Iraq, and that there is no distinction between soldiers and civilians. Kuwaiti editorialists responded strongly to Qaradawi's rhetoric in the days following publication of his reported remarks, decrying even "moderate" Islamism if in fact Qaradawi represents that stream, calling attention to the damage such statements could do to Islam, and raising the specter of Qaradawi's adherents following his advice not only in Iraq but across the Gulf.

2. According to Arabic daily al-Rai al-A'am, in answer to a question on the religious propriety of kidnapping Americans in Iraq, Qaradawi responded: "Americans in Iraq are all fighters, and fighting them is a religious 'must,' and they must leave Iraq. But to mutilate their bodies is a practice that Islam rejects. Americans are all invaders, and there is no difference between 'civilian' and 'military.' Although it is allowed, and it is a 'must,' that they be killed, their bodies must not be mutilated."

3. "Upside-Down: Qaradawi the Moderate"  
Dr. Ahmed al-Rubei, former MP and minister of education and higher education, wrote in Arabic daily al-Qabas (9/4): "Because Shaykh Qaradawi is just like the other extremist shaykhs who will not face death or martyrdom in battle, and because their children are studying in western universities, Qaradawi's fatwa in question will find its way only to some enthusiastic Muslim youngsters who are ready to go to Iraq to carry out the religious duty which Qaradawi has been calling upon them to perform. and because some of these youngsters may not find it easy to enter Iraq, they will not hesitate to direct their weapons towards the American soldiers currently deployed in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in general and Kuwait and Qatar in particular, given the fact that most of these soldiers work in Iraq. Not just that, but one can expect these youngsters to hasten to kill the American civilians in these countries as long as these civilians serve the U.S. Army in the region. I think the difference between madness and rationality and between extremism and moderation is obvious. In spite of that, we find that Qaradawi, who is currently basking in a luxurious life in Qatar, has issued a new fatwa calling for murdering American civilians in Iraq."

4. "Excuse Me, Shaykh Qaradawi"  
Dr. Wael Hassawi, wrote in independent al-Rai al-A'am (9/5): "with regard to Qaradawi's fatwa calling for the murder of American civilians in Iraq, provided the remains are not mutilated, we would like to point out that the brutality which we are currently witnessing in Iraq is not represented only by the mutilation of victims' bodies, but that abduction itself is brutal, as are torture and beheadings. There is a thin line between real jihad in the name of God and the spreading of ruthlessness, and it is the duty of Muslim clerics to show this distinction to people, and to prevent them from brutally harming others in what they believe is an act of following God, as He has not called for this."

5. "Kuwaiti Excerpts"  
Sami Abdullatif al-Nisif wrote in independent al-Anba (09/06): "If Dr. Yousef Qaradawi truly believed in the legitimacy of murder and war and the cutting of civilians' heads in Iraq, then why doesn't he send his sons and apprentices to do so, or does it only fall on the hands of others? Just for your information, Qaradawi is in excellent health that allows him to go to war and carry arms, and the best proof of this is what [an Arabic] newspaper reported about him marrying an underage girl (17 years old). meaning that he enjoys the pleasures of the bedroom, while others are sent to the grave! May God help us."

16. "What Comes After Atonement"

Sawsan al-Shaer wrote in independent al-Watan (09/06): "We are currently faced with a big misconception regarding Jihad and Murder. This is why there exists among us now time bombs, especially Arab Sunnis, all around the world, waiting for the signal to tick off and cause destruction and death. Muslims are currently in awe of their leading clerics, as they delude their followers with their words. No greater an example on this is Dr. Qaradawi when he called for the slaughter of American civilians in Iraq, since they aid the occupying army. We wonder why he didn't call on the same against British civilians? Is it because both of Qaradawi's daughters study in the U.K.? So what's the difference between the Nepalese and the American civilians currently in Iraq? The problem is that these clerics say that Islam is moderate, yet they call for such extremist thought. One must keep in mind that once he agrees to the principle of killing, his turn to die will be soon as well."

17. "A Bunch of Remarks"

Nabeel al-Fadel wrote in independent al-Rai al-A'am (09/06): "If Yousef al-Qaradawi, the experienced member of the Islamic Brotherhood, is an example of moderation as far as the Brotherhood members are concerned, then to hell with them, and with their moderation and middle stream. For God's sake, the man is legitimizing the murder of American soldiers in Iraq, as well as that of the civilians in the excuse that all Americans are soldiers who serve the invasion of Iraq. We believe that our colleague Ahmed al-Rubei's response to Qaradawi's stupidity and rambling, which was published in an article Saturday, has said enough to silence Qaradawi and the logic of his supporters. Shaykh Qaradawi has come, in a lot of hype and with a huge and loud bang, to prove us right when we said that those who claim to be moderate are actually the ones who harbor terrorism."

18. "This is Not a Fatwa, But Rather an Incitement to Kill"

Hasan Issa wrote in independent al-Qabas (09/06): "The only thing worse than the killing of the children in Ossetia has been the fatwa of the "Meat and Rice" Shaykh - Yousef Qaradawi - when he gave his fatwa, may God not bless it, allowing the killing of all Americans in Iraq. He might have even meant all non-Muslim foreigners, whether they be civilian or military. This comes from a Shaykh who lives in Qatar from which American planes took off and flew to liberate Iraq. We in Kuwait are closer in proximity than any other country to the effects of the terror in Iraq. It will affect us the most. Why does our government try to convince us that the youth in Iraq who were caught here are moderates? Qaradawi was considered moderate too, and look what he has said. We are now ashamed to say that we are Arabs and Muslims. We are also ashamed that the clerics of moderation come up with such stupid and irresponsible fatwas."

Tueller